

The Origins Missions: From SIRTf to TPF
Dr. Charles Beichman
JPL Chief Scientist for Origins
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

NASA has made the detection of terrestrial planets and the search for life key components of its strategic plan for space science. A sequence of ground-based and space-based observatories will address a fundamental question: Is there life beyond the Earth? My talk will describe the Origins missions with a focus on the Terrestrial Planet Finder (TPF). NASA's ensemble of projects, including the Keck Interferometer, the Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTf), the Space Interferometer Mission (SIM), the Next Generation Space Telescope (NGST) will lay the scientific and technological groundwork for TPF. I will describe the current requirements and configuration of TPF which will serve as a powerful tool for planet finding and astrophysical imaging.